



**DIVISION OF MINES  
BOARD OF COAL MINING EXAMINERS  
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

***PREPARATION PLANT FOREMAN***

Article 3 of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia establishes requirements for certification of coal mine workers. The certification requirements are included in §45.1-161.24 through §45.1-161.41 in which the Board of Coal Mining Examiners is established for the purpose of administering the certification program. The Board has promulgated certification regulations 4 VAC 25-20 (VR 480-04-2), which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

**CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: *\*Preparation Plant Foreman***

This certification authorizes the holder to:

- Perform foreman and/or examiner duties at preparation plant as required by State and Federal Laws and Codes
- Record the findings on on-shift examinations

**NOTE:**

- This certification may be used at Docks.
- This certification meets requirement for General Miner.

**APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Application (BCME-1) and \$10.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
- Five years of coal mining experience, at least one year shall be at a preparation plant or appropriately related work experience approved by the Chief of the Division of Mines
- Current first aid training (MSHA first aid 5000-23 acceptable)

**EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS:** A score of 80% on each element of the examination

<b><u>ELEMENTS OF EXAM</u></b>	<b><u>NUMBER OF QUESTIONS</u></b>
Preparation Plant Examination	100
▪ Electrical and Equipment (EE)	20
▪ First Aid (FA)	20
▪ Federal Regs (FR)	20
▪ Mine Foremanship (MF)	20
▪ Surface Mining Laws (MP)	20
▪ Gas Detection - practical demonstration	
▪ Records – Practical – Daily and On-Shift Examination (P/O)	

**RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:**

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| ■ Title 30 CFR Part 50, 71, 77      | ■ Surface Foreman Study Guide (excluding blasting) |
| ■ Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia | ■ First Aid for Miners Study Guide                 |
| ■ BCME Requirements                 | ■ Mine Gases Packet                                |

**The above mentioned study materials are available at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Big Stone Gap Office, Customer Assistance Center (276) 523-8233 and Keen Mountain Field Office (276) 498-4533.**